

THE PURPOSE OF THE SLA IS TO ASSIST EACH OTHER IN THE UNDERSTANDING AND APPLICATION OF SYSTEMS LEADERSHIP.

SLA NEWSLETTER
VOLUME 10
DECEMBER 2025

This newsletter will be published at minimum on a bi-annual basis in January and July. Content contributions are welcome, please forward these to Clive Dixon via dixonfreelance@icloud.com



Conference 2026 Details

You should now have received an email advising you of the date for the annual SLA conference in 2026. Just in case you missed it the details are:

Venue: Stamford Plaza Brisbane, Brisbane Australia

Date: 21st - 23rd May

Theme: Measuring our success

Following feedback from members, next year's conference will include a variety of presentations, workshops and interactive sessions. We will share more details including costs and how to register early next year, but for now please save the date.

Conference presentations - EOI

As we develop the agenda for the conference we would like to invite expressions of interest from people who have a story to tell about their use of Systems Leadership, a strategy or idea they would like to share or a case study based on their work to express their interest in delivering a presentation to members and other guests.

Expressions of interest should be submitted by 1 February 2026 to allow time for the conference planning team to finalise the agenda. Ideally your expression of interest will include a topic and brief summary of what you intend to present. A member of the Conference Planning team will then get in touch with you to assist you to develop your presentation.

Expressions of interest should be emailed to Clive Dixon at dixonfreelance@icloud.com

Dates

2025

- 18 December OC Meeting

2026

- January face to face OC Meeting
- 19 February OC Meeting
- 19 March OC Meeting
- 16 April OC Meeting
- 21-23 May Conference
- 18 June OC Meeting
- 16 July OC Meeting
- 20 August OC Meeting
- 17 September OC Meeting
- 15 October OC Meeting
- 19 November OC Meeting
- 17 December OC Meeting



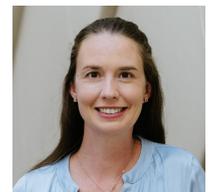
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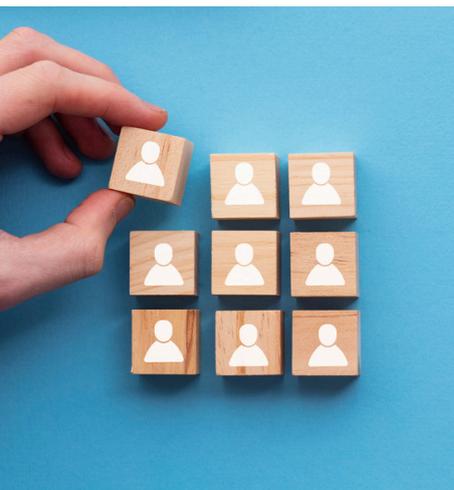


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New Members

Each year people apply to be members of the SLA and many join through attending our annual conference.

There's a simple process to follow.

The applicant should email a copy of their LinkedIn profile or CV to enquiries@sldassociation.com to provide information on their work background and interest in Systems Leadership.

The operating committee will consider the application for ratification and if successful, the secretariat will be in touch to discuss next steps including payment of the annual membership fee which is currently \$50. Encourage colleagues who are using elements of Systems Leadership or who may benefit from wider engagement with the models, tools and concepts to apply for membership.

Welcome to our new members

We would like to extend a warm welcome to our new members who have joined us in the previous 6 months:

Renee Borg

Cat Marks

Chally Kacelnik



Clive Dixon

Member Engagement (TL)

dixonfreelance@icloud.com



Richard Huelin

Member Engagement (TM)

richardjameshuelin@gmail.com

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From the web site

On the [Systems Leadership Association web site](#) members can find information on the operation of the association and access a host of resources.

Resources available are organised under these headings:

Leadership, Structure, Culture and Organisational Change, Team and Teamwork, Work and Capability, Safety, Systems, Case Studies and Interviews, General.

Some Examples

In the Leadership folder:

[Task Assignment Social Process, Phillip Bartlett](#)

Purpose: The purpose of this paper is to provide an explanation of the key aspects of the Task Assignment process so that people can more effectively apply it in their work.

In the Team Leadership & Team Membership folder:

[Team Leadership, Dr Ian Macdonald](#)

These two papers have been written to be of practical help to those leading or being a member of a team. They do not contain a great deal of 'theory' or abstract concepts but are based on observation of behaviour that is constructive. This may seem 'common-sense' or 'obvious' but acting on them is not always easy and requires practice, consequently there is a checklist at the end of each which you can photocopy and check your own behaviour (and/or others if appropriate).

In the Case Studies and Interviews folder:

[The Ruby Princess Case Study Review, Geoff McGill](#)

An analysis through the lens of Systems Leadership of the events around the voyage of the Ruby Princess from 8-19 March 2020 and the subsequent Special Commission of Inquiry.

In the General folder:

[Artificial Intelligence, Litigation and Future Possibilities, Don Farrands](#)

Please get in touch with our Secreteriat Emma on

enquiries@sldassociation.com if you need the password and username to access the members section of the website.

CONTACT US

e: enquiries@sldassociation.com
https://www.sldassociation.org_

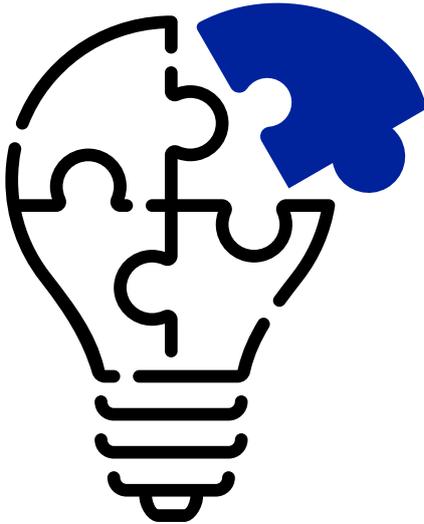
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Learning and Development Update

The SLA remains committed to offering learning and development opportunities for its Members, and in October we ran an online Q&A Session with Phillip Bartlett which was an informative session for Members to enhance their knowledge of Systems Leadership through the exploration of various topics. A big thank you to Phillip for facilitating this session and for Emma Trumper for coordinating the planning and promotion in the lead up to the event. The session was particularly successful for all involved with participants coming from several different industries and employer groups, and all participants expressed gratitude for the SLA providing the capacity for Members to join such a positive learning forum.

Planning by the SLA for a similar online session with a focus on organisational data measurement will occur early next year – promotional material for that will be released in January.

As always, the SLA operating committee is keen to hear from its Members in terms of the type of learning and location for these sorts of professional learning opportunities - feel free to make contact with our learning and development lead, [Noel Rawlins](#) if you are interested in sharing your thoughts.



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From Beta to Boomer, it's social process!

An article from the National Academies, Science Engineering Medicine recently referenced on LinkedIn might be of interest at a time when generational labelling is used increasingly in the description, analysis and planning of social and economic issues.

The introduction to the article tells the story:

Categorizing workers with generational labels like “baby boomer” or “millennial” to define their needs and behaviors is not supported by research, and cannot adequately inform workforce management decisions, according to a [new report](#) from the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine. Instead of relying on generational stereotypes, employers and managers should focus on individuals’ work needs. The report, [Are Generational Categories Meaningful Distinctions for Workforce Management?](#), says that varied values and behaviors among workers are more likely to reflect differences in their ages, career stages, job experiences, and general changes in society and work conditions, rather than their generations.

The National Academies, Science Engineering Medicine states its purpose as: We bring together the best minds across disciplines, sectors and borders to advance solutions for a brighter future.

The article can be found through the following link:

<https://www.nationalacademies.org/news/2020/07/categorizing-workers-needs-by-generation-such-as-baby-boomers-or-millennials-is-not-supported-by-research-or-useful-for-workforce-management>

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AN UPDATE FROM MACDONALD ASSOCIATES

It has been a very busy time for us since our last update.

At MAC we have launched our new online platform, the Circle, which enables accredited practitioners to connect, pose questions and share reflections. It has been a pleasure to see people from around the world interacting and exploring the many ways Systems Leadership Theory is being applied across different sectors.

Much of our recent focus has been on establishing the CIC's work in the UK. We now have strong working relationships with schools across England and the work has been well received and frequently recommended on to other school leaders. We are also working closely with CEOs of Education Trusts, who hold the unique responsibility of leading up to 30 schools.

We were recently privileged to be invited to support the Welsh Government's Headteacher Advisory Group. The material was new to both school leaders and policy makers and we anticipate this will lead to further work with different regions across the country and, we hope, the opportunity to contribute to national policy.

Work is continuing on the new accreditation process. If you are interested in finding out more, please get in touch via the contact page on our website: www.systemsleadership.org.uk

Angela O'Brien



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Current operating committee members and roles

LEARNING & DEVELOPMENT TEAM



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MEMBER ENGAGEMENT TEAM



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